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Guyana:* draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98 of 20 December 1995, 51/167 of 16 December 1996, 52/182 of 18 December 1997 and 53/170 of 15 December 1998, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth, development and interrelated issues,

Reaffirming the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa,[1] which provides an important framework for promoting a partnership for growth and development,

Emphasizing that a favourable and conducive international economic and financing environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the growth and development of developing countries, and emphasizing also that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for sustainable development,

Noting that the benefits of the existing multilateral trading system have not been evenly shared and that progress towards full liberalization in sectors of particular interest to developing countries is lagging behind and significant imbalances between rights and obligations exist in multilateral trading agreements as well as in conditions of market access,

Stressing the importance of full and faithful implementation of the commitments and obligations in multilateral trade agreements to the equitable development and stability of the world economy,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, Midrand, Republic of South Africa, 27 April-11 May 1996, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.4), part one, sect. A.

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Taking note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-sixth session,[2] and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[3]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the expansion of international trade as an engine of growth and development and, in this context, the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

2. *Renews* the commitment to uphold and strengthen an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trade system, which contributes to the economic and social advancement of all countries and peoples by promoting the liberalization and expansion of trade, employment and stability and by providing a framework for the conduct of international trade relations;

3. *Expresses* concern at the declining terms of trade in primary commodities and lack of progress in diversification, and in this regard strongly emphasizes the need for actions including through improved market access conditions;

4. *Recognizes* that the substantial improvement of market access to developed country markets through, *inter alia*, the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, especially for exports of goods and services from developing countries, should be a major priority for the new multilateral trade negotiations;

5. *Deplores* any attempt to bypass, roll back or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trade by unilateral actions inconsistent with the multilateral trade rules and regulations;

6. *Expresses* concern about the proliferation of anti-dumping and countervailing measures which are increasingly being used as protectionist measures against developing countries;

7. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and related issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

8. *Welcomes* the progress made so far in the preparation for the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000, by the Trade and Development Board, and considers that the tenth session of Conference will provide, *inter alia*, an important opportunity for the United Nations system and the international community to make a collective reflection on development, particularly in the context of globalization, to reach a consensus on a new development paradigm whose pillars are growth, stability and equity, and which would facilitate the effective integration of developing countries into a more equitable global economy, as well as ensuring greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in global economic policy-making and more participatory decision-making;

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[2] A/54/15 (Part V). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[3] A/54/529, annex.

[4] A/54/304.

9. *Reiterates* the importance of continued trade liberalization, in particular in sectors of export interest to developing countries, through, *inter alia*:

(a) Substantial reductions of tariffs and tariff peaks as well as the removal of tariff escalation;

(b) Ensuring that resort to anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and technical standards is subjected to effective multilateral surveillance so that such measures respect and are consistent with multilateral rules and obligations and are not used for protectionist purposes;

(c) The elimination of trade-distorting policies, protectionist practices and non-tariff barriers in international trade relations;

(d) The improvement and renewal, by preference-giving countries, of their Generalized System of Preferences schemes with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially the least developed countries, into the international trading system and of finding ways and means to ensure more effective utilization of the Generalized System of Preferences schemes, and in this context reiterates its original principles, namely, non-discrimination, universality, burden-sharing and non-reciprocity;

10. *Also reiterates* that it is an ethical imperative for the international community to arrest and reverse the marginalization of the least developed countries and to promote their expeditious integration into the world economy, and that all countries should work together towards further enhanced market access for exports from least developed countries within the context of supporting their own efforts at capacity-building; welcomes the initiatives taken by the World Trade Organization in cooperation with other organizations in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted at its first Ministerial Conference, held at Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996, including through effective follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development, held at Geneva on 27 and 28 October 1997, taking into account the proposals adopted by the Least Developed Countries' Coordinating Workshop held in South Africa in June 1999; recognizes that the full implementation of the Plan of Action requires further and expeditious progress towards duty-free imports from the least developed countries; and invites the relevant international organizations to provide substantially enhanced technical assistance to help strengthen the supply capacity of the least developed countries so as to help them to take the fullest possible advantage of trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization;

11. *Stresses* the urgent need to facilitate the integration of the countries of Africa into the world economy, and in this context welcomes the action-oriented agenda for the development of Africa contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[5] and endorses the call contained in the ministerial communiqué for continued efforts to enhance market access for products of export interest to African economies and support for their efforts at diversification and building of supply capacity, and in this context requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue and strengthen its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development

[5] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

of Africa in the 1990s,[6] taking into account the agreed conclusions of the Trade and Development Board on Africa;[7]

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as a matter of urgency, the initiation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the areas falling within its mandate, of the preparatory process for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the New Agenda to be held in the year 2002, in particular focusing on market access, diversification and supply capacity, resources flows and external debt, foreign direct and portfolio investment and access to technology, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to present a report based on the recommendations of the Trade and Development Board on Africa and on measures taken in this regard, with a special emphasis on African trade issues, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session under the agenda item entitled "International trade and development";

13. *Also stresses* the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States, small and vulnerable economies and landlocked developing countries, and to recognize that developing countries that provide transit services need adequate support in maintaining and improving their transit infrastructure;

14. *Endorses* in this context the relevant provisions of its twenty-second special session on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8] and reiterates the need for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[9]

15. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective application by all members of the World Trade Organization of all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations,[10] taking into account the specific interests of developing countries so as to maximize economic growth and developmental benefits for all, and the need for the effective implementation of the special provisions in the multilateral trade agreements and related ministerial decisions in favour of developing countries, particularly the operationalization of special and differential provision, including the strengthening of the concept taking into account the changing realities of world trade and of globalized production, and urges Governments and concerned international organizations to apply effectively the Ministerial Decisions on Least Developed Countries and on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;[10]

16. *Recognizes* that it is important that the momentum towards increased trade liberalization, particularly as regards areas and products of interest to developing countries,

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[6] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[7] See A/54/15 (Part V). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 15.*

[8] See resolution S-22/2.

[9] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

be maintained and that further liberalization be sufficiently broad-based to respond to the range of interests and concerns of all members, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, and in this regard welcomes the activities of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development aimed at assisting developing countries in developing a positive agenda for the future multilateral trade negotiations, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide analytical support and technical assistance, as well as capacity-building activities, to those countries for their effective participation in the negotiations;

17. *Stresses* the need for future multilateral trade negotiations to pay particular attention to such issues as transfer of technology, appropriate safeguards for developing countries, credit for autonomous liberalization, export finance and commodity markets, and in this regard to the operationalization of the provisions under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement[10] relating to the transfer of technology and the balanced protection of biological resources and disciplines to protect traditional knowledge, as well as enabling developing countries to use measures necessary to implement their policies for development and export diversification and upgrading under the Trade-Related Investment Measures Agreement[10] and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;[10]

18. *Calls upon* the international financial institutions to ensure that in their development cooperation activities, the developing countries are not required to undertake obligations with regard to their development policies, strategies and programmes in trade and trade-related areas in excess or additional to those undertaken within the framework of rules agreed within the multilateral trading system;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strengthening of and the attainment of greater universality by the international trading system, and of accelerating the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including the application of the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries in their accession negotiations, and also emphasizes the necessity for Governments that are members of the World Trade Organization and relevant international organizations to assist non-members of the World Trade Organization so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious and transparent manner, on the basis of undertaking balanced World Trade Organization rights and obligations, and for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization to provide technical assistance, within their mandates, that will contribute to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system;

20. *Stresses* the need for improved measures to address the volatility of financial flows as well as the effects of financial crisis on the international trading system and the development prospects of developing countries and the countries affected by such crisis, emphasizing that keeping all markets open and maintaining continued growth in world trade are key elements in overcoming such crisis, and in this context rejects the use of any protectionist measures; at a broader level, there is a need for greater coherence between the development objectives agreed to by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial system, and in this context calls for close cooperation between the organizations of the United Nations system and the multilateral trade and financial institutions;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in scheduling and organizing mandated events on trade and trade-related issues, to promote complementarity on the work of the relevant

bodies of the United Nations system, bearing in mind that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the focal point;

22. *Recognizes* the importance of open regional economic integration and the contribution of such regional arrangements to facilitating trade and investment flows, economies of scale, economic liberalization and the integration of their members into the system of international economic relations within a framework of open regionalism, enabling progress towards a more open multilateral system, and calls upon all Governments, intergovernmental and multilateral institutions to provide support to economic integration amongst developing countries;

23. *Reiterates* that, in line with Agenda 21[11] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[12] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development and that, in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact are not used for protectionist purposes, and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work on trade, environment and development;

24. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to investment, as well to identify ways and means to promote foreign direct and investment to all developing countries, in particular to those most in need, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

25. *Emphasizes* that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element with regard to the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

26. *Strongly underlines* the need for technical assistance, including the provision of legal assistance to developing countries, to enable those countries to take the fullest possible advantage of the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization, based on multilaterally agreed rules and regulations, and in this context emphasizes the importance of enabling the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen technical assistance to developing countries, in particular the developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in this area,

27. *Notes* the increasing importance and application of electronic commerce in international trade and the need to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to participate effectively in electronic commerce, and urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to assist developing countries and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for analysis of the fiscal, legal and regulatory aspects of electronic commerce as well as its implications on trade and development prospects for developing countries;

28. *Stresses* the importance of improving the efficiency of trade-supporting services, particularly in the areas of transport, customs, banking and insurance, and business information, of developing countries, particularly in the case of small and medium-sized enterprises, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in

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[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1997*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

[12] Ibid., annex I.

collaboration with other relevant bodies of the United Nations particularly the regional commissions, to continue to assist developing countries in this area;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide substantive inputs on the role of information and communications technology in trade, finance, investment and related areas to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on (a) the implementation of the present resolution and (b) developments in the multilateral trading system.